

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 AID-05 PC-01
SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 OPR-02 A-01 ACDA-07 OMB-01
TRSE-00 MCT-01 SCA-01 SCS-03 DHA-02 EB-08 /128 W
-----261201Z 122936 /45

O 261100Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3251
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR//UCJ4-7//
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T KINSHASA 3937

PASS PEACE CORPS, USIA FOR IAA, IOP

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS PINS AEMR CG AO
SUBJ: SHABA INVASION: SITREP 44 (APR 26, 1977)

1. FOLLOWING IS THE 44TH MISSION WIDE SURVEY INCLUDING REPORTS FROM
LUBUMBASHI.

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MILITARY SITUATION AS OF 251800Z APR 77
NOTE: ALL GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCES ARE TAKEN FROM JOINT OPERATIONS
GRAPHIC SERIES 1501 MAPS.

2. HOSTILE FORCES:

A. DDN CONTINUES TO RECEIVE REPORTS ABOUT HOSTILE FORCES ABANDON-
ING AMMUNITION AND NOW PAMPHLETS AS WELL (REPORT DID NOT INDI-

CATE IN WHAT LANGUAGE THESE PAMPHLETS ARE WRITTEN).

B. THE RECENT LACK OF HOSTILE RESISTANCE TO FAZ'S ADVANCE HAS LED TO A NOTE OF CAUTION BEING PASSED TO BG SINGA'S COMMAND POST. A BELGIAN STAFF OFFICER IN RADIO CONTACT WITH SINGA'S DEPUTY COL SASSA, ON 25 APR URGED CAUTION ESPECIALLY AT BRIDGES AND OTHER POTENTIAL OBSTACLES THAT WOULD BE LIKELY TARGETS FOR ANY RESIDUAL HOSTILE FORCES BYPASSED BY FAZ IN THE CURRENT FORWARD MOVEMENT.

C. IN THE OPINION OF A BELGIAN STAFF OFFICER AT DDN, THE MOST CREDIBLE EXPLANATION FOR HOSTILE INACTION IN FACE OF THE FAZ ADVANCE IS THAT THE KATANGANS ARE "ZAIRIAN" TOO, HENCE THEY ARE AS LIKELY TO FLEE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY AS DID FAZ EARLIER.

3. ZAIRIAN FORCES:

A. FAZ REPORTED MUTSHATSHA (1039S/2426E) REOCCUPIED AS OF 250400Z APR 77. IT WAS NOT MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, WHETHER IT WAS MUTSHATSHA STATION, MUTSHATSHA MISSION OR MUTSHATSHA VILLAGE (ALL WITHIN A FEW

(MS OF EACH OTHER) THAT WAS TAKEN OR WHETHER FAZ HAD MET SERIOUS RESISTANCE. DDN WAS UNABLE TO GET FURTHER DETAILS DUE TO THE FACT THAT BG SINGA WAS BUSY WITH THE VISIT OF PRES MOBUTU TO SHABA.

B. THE MOST URGENT TASK NOW FACING FAZ IS TO SEIZE THE BRIDGE OVER THE MUKULESHI RIVER AT BANGALALA (1030S/2420E). THIS IS ROUGHLY 15 KMS NORTHWEST OF MUTSHATSHA.

C. NOTHING FURTHER ABOUT BG SINGA'S REQUEST FOR PARACHUTES.

D. THE VUADI BATTALION WITHDREW FROM KAKAFUMBA (0940S/2346E) AND AS OF 240700Z APR WAS LOCATED AT KWANDA (0934S/2409E). THIS WAS VAUDI'S OWN DECISION, NOT THE RESULT OF HOSTILE ATTACK.

E. IT IS NOW FOUR DAYS SINCE DDN HAS HAD A REPORT FROM BG ELUMBA ON THE SITUATION IN THE VICINITY OF KAPANGA. THIS SILENCE IS
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BLAMED ON A SUSPECTED RADIO FAILURE. AN EFFORT WILL BE MADE ON 26 APR TO CONTACT BG ELUMBA VIA BELGIAN CHANNELS (POSSIBLY THROUGH THE BELGIANS WHO ARE ON THE FACULTY OF THE BASIC OFFICER SCHOOL AT KANANGA (0545S/2225E).

4. MOROCCAN FORCES: DDN REPORTS NO CHANGE.

5. AIR:

A. NO TACAIR OR RECON DATA PROVIDED BY DDN.

B. REPORTEDLY THE LARGE BACKLOG OF CARGO FOR AIRLIFT FROM NDJILI TO SHABA HAS NOW BEEN WORKED DOWN. HOW MUCH WAS MOVED BY FAZA ASSETS AND HOW MUCH BY OTHERS SUCH AS THE EGYPTIAN AN-12 WAS NOT SPECIFIED.

6. DOMESTIC PRESS:

A. "MUTSHATSHA RETAKEN BY FAZ" BANNER "SALONGO" AND ELIMA" APR 26 AS BROADCAST MEDIA ENTHUSIASTICALLY JUMP ON SAME BANDWAGON. EDITORIAL COMMENT BY "SALONGO" ON THE CAPTURE OF MUTSHATSHA NOTES, ALMOST IN PASSING, THAT FAZ ADMITTEDLY DID NOTHING IN THE

EARLY DAYS FOLLOWING THE MAR 8 ATTACK ("A BRIEF PERIOD OF FENCE-SITTING, FLOWING PRECISELY FROM THE EFFECT OF THE SURPRISE OF THE FIRST DAYS") BUT NOW IT IS A DIFFERENT STORY. "...DESPITE THE WILD OPPOSITION PUT UP BY THE ENEMY DURING THE FIRST ENGAGEMENTS -- AN OPPOSITION SO FIERCE BECAUSE THE ASSAILANTS WERE VERSED IN THE MOST MURDEROUS GUERRILLA ART, 'MADE IN CUBA' AS IS WELL UNDERSTOOD -- THE ZAIRIAN-MOROCCAN FORCES DIDN'T DELAY IN RETAKING THE INITIATIVE. AND IN LAUNCHING A SERIES OF COUNTRY-OFFENSIVES WHICH FORESEE THE GLORIOUS FINAL ASSAULT." ZAIREPRESS AGENCY (AZAP), TWO DAILIES FRUN IN ENTIRETY MOBUTU INTERVIEW WITH MOROCCAN PRESS AGENCY THROUGH AZIA MEJJATI, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF RABAT DAILY "LE MATIN." FOLLOWING ARE POINTS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST:

(1) WHEN ASKED IF ZAIRE INTENDED TO PURSUE INVADERS INTO ANGOLA, MOBUTU REPLIED: "I BELIEVE THAT THERE IS ONE OVERRIDING POINT FOR US -- FIRST, THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ZAIRE. ON THIS POINT, I AM AND REMAIN INTRANSIGENT. WHETHER TO SAY IF THIS ACTION (THE BORDER ATTACK) WILL REMAIN UNPUNISHED, I BELIEVE THAT IS ANOTHER SECRET

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STORY. AND YOU HAVE UNDERSTOOD ME."

(2) AS TO THE PROMISED "SENSATIONAL REVELATIONS" PREVIOUSLY SUGGESTED, MOBUTU SAID THIS IS NOT THE MOMENT TO RELEASE SUCH DETAILS. "...THERE ARE TWO AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE SENT TROOPS TO THE OTHER SIDE. THIS IS KNOWN BY OUR (INTELLIGENCE) SERVICES. AT THE RIGHT MOMENT I WILL IDENTIFY THEM."

(3) MOBUTU SAID ZAIRE IS PREPARED TO PARDON THOSE EX-KATANGA GENDARMES WHO SURRENDER NOW, "BUT THEY MUST DO SO QUICKLY."

B. AZAP EDITORIAL -- "THE BEGINNING OF THE END" -- SAYS THE CAPTURE OF MUTSHATSHA "IS ONLY THE PRELUDE OF THE FALL IN THE NEAR FUTURE OF OTHER LOCALITIES STILL IN THE SOILED HANDS OF THE INVADERS IN THE PAY OF SOCIO-IMPERIALISM."

C. FOREIGN PRESS TO ACCOMPANY MOBUTU TO SCHEDULED APR 26 VISIT TO MUTSHATSHA.

7. DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION:

A. KINSHASA: CALM.

B. LUBUMBASHI: LUBUMBASHI CLOSED UP AT NOON ON APR 25 AS EVERYBODY PREPARED FOR PRES MOBUTU'S ARRIVAL, HIS FIRST VISIT TO THE CAPITAL OF SHABA SINCE THE CRISIS BEGAN SEVEN WEEKS AGO. STUDENTS, WORKERS, ANIMATION GROUPS, AND OCCASIONAL BANDS LINED THE ROAD AT PRESCRIBED PLACES FROM THE AIRPORT TO TOWN. THE RECEPTION WAS POLITE AND IN CERTAIN SECTIONS ENTHUSIASTIC ALONG THE 10 KM ROUTE.

ABOUT 15 WESTERN JOURNALISTS ACCOMPANIED THE PRESIDENT, INCLUDING CORRESPONDENTS FROM NEWSWEEK AND ABC. THE OTHER 20-25 JOURNALISTS WHO HAD BEEN WITH THE PRESIDENT IN KOLWEZI OVER THE WEEKEND HAD RETURNED TO KINSHASA TO FILE STORIES. JOURNALISTS ACCOMPANYING PRES MOBUTU HAVE BEEN VERY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE SUPPORT THEY HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY AND AZAP. ON THIS VISIT TO SHABA, SEVERAL NOTED THE TRIP WAS REASONABLY WELL ORGANIZED AND

THEY HAD THE FEELING THAT THE GOVT WAS TRYING TO HELP THEM OBTAIN
AND FILE STORIES.

C. KOLWEZI: NO CHANGE

D. KAMINA: NO CHANGE

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8. AMERICAN CITIZEN SITUATION: METHODISTS REPORT NO CONTACT
AGAIN WITH KAPANGA ON APR 25.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, GROUND COMBAT OPERATIONS, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: N/A
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHABA INVASION: SITREP 44 (APR 26, 1977)
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, AEMR, CG, AO
To: STATE BRUSSELS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e69d1c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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